

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Date: October 25, 2005

**JOSÉ M. SANCHEZ**

Chairman

**STEVEN L. BESICH**

Clerk of the Board

**TOMMIE C. MARTIN**

Vice-Chairman

By: Marilyn Brewer  
Deputy Clerk

**SHIRLEY L. DAWSON**

Member

Gila County Courthouse  
Globe, Arizona

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PRESENT: Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman; Shirley L. Dawson, Member; Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk; Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk; and, Bryan Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Deputy County Attorney.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in Regular Session at 10:00 a.m. this date. Steve Besich led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Reverend Dan Lowe of the First Maranatha Baptist Church delivered the Invocation.

Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, requested the award of Call for Bids No. 061705-01, for the purchase of 120 tons of MC-800 chip seal oil, to Ergon Asphalt Products, Inc. Two bids were received, one from Ergon Asphalt Products, Inc. and the other from Paramount Petroleum. It was concluded that the bid received from Ergon Asphalt was in the best interest of the County. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously awarded Call for Bids No. 061705-01 to Ergon Asphalt Products, Inc.

Thomas Melcher, Spokesman for the Classification and Compensation Study Selection Committee, requested that the Board consider a recommendation by the Selection Committee to have Public Sector Personnel Consultants (PSPC) perform a new classification and compensation study for

Gila County, and direct staff to begin the process of meeting with representatives of PSPC to discuss entering into a possible contract. He stated that three applicants made a presentation to the Selection Committee on October 4, 2005. Following the presentation, the Selection Committee met again on October 12, 2005, and PSPC is being recommended to the Board as the company to perform the study. Mr. Melcher passed out a booklet to the Board from the company being recommended. He also stated that there is one copy of an audio visual aid, which is a presentation of the work that PSPC is presently doing in Pinal County. Each Board member expressed their appreciation to the Selection Committee for its participation. Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation of the Selection Committee.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda items A-E, as follows:

- A. Adopted Resolution No. 05-10-07 renaming a road in Tonto Basin from Recreo Lane to Crappie Lane. **(A copy of the Resolution is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors' Office.)**
- B. Approved Amendment No. 1 to Community Development Block Grant Contract No. 105-04 between the Gila County Health and Community Services Division and the Arizona Department of Housing which extends the Contract term date from October 12, 2005, to April 12, 2006, in order to continue with housing rehabilitation services.
- C. Approved the September 2005 monthly departmental activity reports submitted by the Clerk of the Superior Court and the Recorder.
- D. Approved the personnel reports/actions for the week of October 24, 2005, as follows:

Departure from County Service:

- 1. Probation Aide – Probation – 10-28-05 – Juvenile Probation Service Fees Fund - Desirae Beraun – temporary position

2. Diversion Officer – County Attorney – 11-02-05 – Diversion Program Fund - William Wright – hire 06-01-85 – Retirement
3. Juvenile Detention Officer I – Probation – 10-12-05 – General Fund - Douglas Wilson – hire 07-26-04 – Exhausted FMLA leave

Hire to County Service:

4. Scalehouse Attendant/Laborer – Solid Waste Management – 10-24-05 – Enterprise Fund – Kimberly Sermenio – position vacated by Eddie Lopez
5. Community Nutrition Worker I – Health – 10-17-05 – Health Services Fund - Katie Davis – position vacated by Lona Kelley

End Probationary Period:

6. Administrative Assistant II – Emergency Management – 10-31-05 – General Fund - Vicki DeAnda

Departmental Transfer:

7. Project Manager – Public Works Administration to Natural Resources/Public Works Roads – 10-31-05 – Public Works Administration Fund to Natural Resources/Public Works Road Funds – Anthony Lopez
8. Animal Control Officer II to III – Rabies Control – 10-12-05 – Rabies Control Fund – Jason Philpot

Position Review:

9. Reclassification – Building Maintenance Technician to Building Maintenance Supervisor – Facilities Management – 10-17-05 – Internal Services Fund – Clifford Horn – Reclassification due to change in job duties
10. Anniversary Date Increase – 10-17-05 – Cynthia Romance, Teresa Bunker
11. Anniversary Date Increase – 10-31-05 – John Baca, Roland Valencia, Yvette Olvera
12. Change fund codes – Deputy Probation Officer – Probation – 10-31-05 – A.I.P.S. Fund to State Aid Enhancement Fund – Cheryal Taylor

13. Change fund codes – Deputy Probation Officer – Probation – 10-31-05 – Juvenile Standard Fund to A.I.P.S. Fund – Jay Boyer

**SHERIFF'S PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS**

Temporary Hire to County Service:

14. Classroom Teacher – Globe S.O. – 10-01-05 – Commissary Fund - Rajan Das

Position Review:

15. Position reassignment – Deputy Sheriff – Globe S.O. – 10-24-05 – General Fund - Bianca DalMolin

E. Approved the finance reports/demands/transfers for the week of October 24, 2005 (separate handout), as follows: \$470,414.61 was disbursed for County expenses by voucher numbers X147750 through X147831, X374286 through X374455, X374457 through X374488 and X374490 through X374578. The hand-issued warrants listing is as follows: X374282 in the amount of \$7,400.00, X374283 in the amount of \$7,500.00 and X147748 and X147749 in the amount of \$403.46. **(An itemized list of vouchers is permanently on file in the Board of Supervisors.)**

Steve Besich requested Board discussion on any new items in reference to Gila County water issues. He stated that he had no new updates at this time. Supervisor Dawson stated that there were 4 representatives present at the meeting today from the Diamond Star Water Coalition. She then introduced Chris and Karen Benjamin and Bill and Sharon Rappaport.

At this time each Board member and the Chief Administrator were presented the opportunity to give a brief summary of current events as allowed by A.R.S. §38-431.02(K).

In reference to agenda item number 7, pursuant to A.R.S. § 431-03(A)(3), the Board requested legal advice from the County Attorney on the Diamond Star incorporation petition. In the event the petitions are approved for Diamond Star incorporation, the Board will also consider appointing up to

seven qualified electors to the first common council of the Town of Diamond Star.

Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board convened into Executive Session at 10:39 a.m.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board reconvened into Regular Session at 11:36 a.m.

Supervisor Dawson made the motion requesting that all qualified electors interested in serving on the Diamond Star Council should submit their letters of interest or resume to Steven L. Besich, Gila County Manager/Clerk, by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on October 31, 2005. Not more than seven positions will be filled. This will be contingent upon possible action by the Board at its meeting on November 1, 2005, and if the petitions are approved for incorporation of the Town of Diamond Star. Bryan Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Deputy County Attorney, clarified that "if" should be underlined for the record. He stated that under Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 9-231, it requires that the first common council shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors upon declaring the town incorporated. He stated: *"The item as far as 'possible incorporation' is already on the agenda for next Tuesday's meeting (November 1, 2005) up in Payson. If, in fact, the Board were to incorporate, the Board would also have to declare the first common council. So, the contingency is there; there's the 'if' that if that happens the Board would also need to consider the common council."* Chairman Sanchez requested that Mr. Chamber's recommendation be included as part of the motion. Vice-Chairman Martin seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved said motion. Mr. Besich also requested that individuals who want to submit a resume for consideration on the Town Council clearly mark on the envelope that this is a request to be considered for the Diamond Star Council, so the resume doesn't get opened and sent to the wrong department.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Martin, seconded by Supervisor Dawson, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting until 1:30 p.m.

Upon motion by Supervisor Dawson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Martin, the Board unanimously voted to reconvene the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Martin requested that the Board hold a discussion regarding Gila County's National Resources Initiative. Vice-Chairman Martin presented the following information to the Board. This Initiative, which evolved into an initiative of the County, began in April 2000 when she first got involved by calling a meeting in Tonto Basin and inviting all of the local ranchers. The meeting occurred when the U.S. Forest Service first started de-stocking the ranches. The Forest Service plan that was put together in late 1970s and early 1980s, with decisions being based on "very bad science," is what led to the present situation in Gila County with no cattle, timber or mining. In the fall of 2002, Vice-Chairman Martin made a formal presentation to the Board of Supervisors, which was the beginning of trying to build coalitions of ranchers, miners and timber people, which hadn't previously occurred. Vice-Chairman Martin passed a handout to the Board entitled 'Healthy Habits-Understanding Brittle and Non-Brittle Environments,' which was information she had previously used for two presentations to prior boards so people would understand the need to become proactive, instead of reactive, in approaching resource management in the County. She passed out a second handout entitled 'Understanding Money vs. Wealth' which was a presentation she gave to the Board in July 2003. She stated that over the last 30 years Gila County has been allowed to slide from a base of hard wealth, which is based on renewable and nonrenewable resources to soft wealth, which is, for example, real estate and recreation. The County rests entirely on soft wealth, and part of this initiative is to shift back to have more of a balance of hard and soft wealth for the County. Vice-Chairman Martin's next handout to the Board contained information resulting from a meeting held at the Globe Elks Club in 2003 with 150-200 people talking about getting this initiative off and running. The purposes and objectives resulting from that meeting became known as the Gila County Natural Resources Initiative. She then read the two purposes for

the Initiative. She stated the language ‘hashed out’ at that meeting was a balance of sustainable management giving the County a sustainable, healthy environment in all resource areas. Vice-Chairman Martin then read the 5 initial objectives of the Initiative. She stated that the cattle industry at that time was a \$40 million industry; today it’s not even \$100,000. She stated that the County has lost tremendous wealth production and even production capability from range lands. She stated, *“If land isn’t continually managed in a sustainable fashion, the land doesn’t provide in a sustainable fashion. It then takes money and effort to get it back into that productive mode.”* Vice-Chairman Martin stated that the focus for 2003 and 2004 was the Gila County Rim Country Wildlife Protection Plan, which was completed and is now in place. Her suggestion now is that a proactive approach be taken from this point forward. She stated that there are many people doing many good things, but none are aligned in a direction to get anything accomplished. *“Coordination of the various individuals and groups needs to happen to make a difference.”* Vice-Chairman Martin passed a handout to the Board on a project proposal by Alvin Medina, Research Ecologist, Rocky Mountain Research Station, who is proposing a project to publish individual works of restoration in a scientific medium. She stated, *“One of the things done in Gila County is the compilation of valid scientific data on surface management; however, none of the information is found in scientific literature. All of the material that has led to good management has been done on private land and never included in scientific literature. Until it is included in scientific literature, the County can’t hold the U.S. Forest Service and others to good management.”* She gave the following information on this project which will organize and validate the research completed by 4 project researchers and articles will be published in scientific journals. Applied technology of how to restore deteriorated rangelands and restore vitality to the cattle industry is vastly needed in Gila County. Additionally, there are many mine sites in Gila County that require remediation. Existing technology needs to be collected and reviewed with the scientific community to be validated and

published for public consumption. The data will be provided via these 4 projects, and once the research has been published, the results will allow Gila County to develop natural resource management guidelines and also be made available to land users and policy makers to improve the economic and environmental well being of Gila County, as well as other counties in the west. Vice-Chairman Martin stated that the 4 projects involved in the series will include the following: 1) mine restoration done in Mina, Nevada; 2) rangeland rest done in South Africa; 3) mine restoration done in Globe, Arizona; and, 4) rangeland rest done in Deseret, Utah. She stated that the estimated total County cost for the 4 projects would be \$80,000, and Mr. Medina would provide technical oversight throughout all phases of the project. Vice-Chairman Martin advised that she will be bringing a proposal to the Board within two weeks. She also advised of another proposal to complete the Gila County Rim Country Wildlife Protection Plan for the remainder of Gila County including the Pinal Mountains and Young. She stated there are funding sources available through the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) through the Forestry Department that are 'earmarked' for community wildfire plans and private land. Board discussion ensued on the many other problems within the County's forests which include bark beetles, drought, excessive junipers in Pleasant Valley, global warming, etc. The Board also discussed the possibility of heating buildings and schools with biomass heating. Vice-Chairman Martin then read the 8 objectives of Eastern Arizona Counties Organization (ECO) and Environmental Economic Communities Organization's (EECO) Long-Range Planning Session held on October 20, 2005, with the objectives to be accomplished by November 2010. She stated this is a group of 5 eastern Arizona counties basically working to achieve a list of objectives primarily dealing with the forest. Chairman Sanchez and Supervisor Dawson both thanked Vice-Chairman Martin for her presentation and information and agreed on the importance of bringing all of the groups together to form a united



coalition to fight for the improvement of the economic and environmental well being of Gila County.

Supervisor Dawson requested that the Board identify and prioritize Gila County legislative issues identified by the County Supervisors Association's (CSA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). She presented the Board with a copy of CSA's Legislative Summit Report from the September 2005 Conference. She stated that ALTCS (Arizona Longer Term Care Services) is Gila County's number one focus, but questioned what other focuses the County should have. Supervisor Dawson stated that one item not listed in CSA's Report, but which is something Representative Bill Konopnicki of the Arizona House of Representatives pointed out, is the sunset clause on provisional colleges. She advised that Representative Konopnicki stated that unless northern and southern Gila County groups quit "knocking heads" on the college issues, Gila County will not continue to have its Legislators' support in seeing that provisional college districts are not eliminated. Supervisor Dawson stated that last week a Payson group (WakeUpCall) came to Globe and spoke to one of the local service clubs and was attacking the college and criticizing the Board of Supervisors for allowing a contract to go through with Eastern Arizona College to run Gila County's community colleges. She passed out a report to the Board which the WakeUpCall group had circulated entitled "Is Eastern Arizona College Helping or Exploiting Us?" Supervisor Dawson stated that she had donated some of her constituency funds to the college to assist students in purchasing textbooks and was told that the check could not be cashed because it was made out to the Gila County Foundation and that the northern group had restrained the southern group from having a foundation. Jacque Griffin, Assistant County Manager/Gila County Librarian, stated that she is a member of the Foundation in the south which now has a new name, because there can't be one County foundation; there has to be two. Steve Besich stated that the original agreement was that there would be one foundation with two chapters. Supervisor Dawson stated, "*We have to pull this college business together and*

*how do we do that? Do we have a meeting with the citizens for a better college or the college group and try to solve this problem? We will lose our legislative support for the provisional college if we aren't going to get along."* Mr. Besich suggested that because the problem has grown, the Board could consider adopting a legislative agenda of 2 to 5 items to show a united front on those issues and have the Board members individually reach out to their different contacts for support. He stated that Representative John Allen has a bill to abolish provisional colleges which he's going to present and if Gila County's two sides are not together, Gila County may end up paying \$1 million in out-of-county tuition again and have no community college. He stated, *"We need to show some leadership and we need to contact people and get this resolved."* The Board continued discussion on the college issue and it was concluded that it should be a Gila County issue that Supervisor Dawson will request CSA to adopt at the LPC meeting on November 4, 2005. Supervisor Dawson also requested that the Board review her handout and advise her of which other priorities are major concerns, prior to the LPC meeting. Vice-Chairman Martin also requested that that she would like to include water authority language, the Blue Ridge water issue, as a third Gila County priority. She stated that Attorney David Kennedy is working on language for the water authority to allow counties at the table when discussing water issues. She stated that when the language is completed, all of the other counties will want to be involved. In referring back to the college issue, Supervisor Dawson inquired if the Board would be interested in having a meeting the afternoon of November 1, 2005, after the Regular Board meeting scheduled in Payson, with the concerned citizens group of Payson in an attempt to resolve the college issues. Chairman Sanchez stated that the Board could invite them and requested that Mr. Besich try to set up the meeting. Mr. Besich stated that if the group can't meet at that time, he would try to set up a meeting for the following week.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

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Jose M. Sanchez, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Steven L. Besich, County Manager/Clerk